MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2) The answer to each question is in the negative.

Records in the Chief Engineer's Office.

283. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many of the files in the Chief Engineer's office are missing?

(*b*) If so, who is the officer responsible?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to institute an urgent inquiry into the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these questions do not arise.

Workshop Committee's Report.

284. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have passed any order on the Workshop Committee's report; if not, what is the reason for such a long delay?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Orders have been passed and are under issue.

Appointment of Dr. Noble on the Administrative Board, Medical Services.

285. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state what induced them to appoint Dr. Noble as a member of the Administrative Board, Medical Services?

(2) Was it because no competent Travancorean was found in the medical service of the State that Dr. Noble was chosen?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) The Government considered Dr. Noble to be well-suited for such a part-time appointment.

(2) No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know why a foreigner is preferred for the post while the Government admit that there are competent persons in the medical service in the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is given there. Government considered Dr. Noble to be well-suited and they selected him. The selection is left to the discretion of the Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether he had any additional qualifications which made him well-suited for the post?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): He has the necessary qualifications for the post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My question is whether he had any *additional* qualifications.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): My answer is that he has the *necessary* qualification.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Are the Government aware that he is engaged in the work of converting Hindus to Christianity?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise. The Member was dealing with Dr. Noble's appointment in the service of the Travancore State. What Dr. Noble does outside, without any connection with his duties to the Government, has no bearing upon the Member's question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then, I have nothing to say.

May I know whether the Government went wrong in appointing such a person to an influential position from where he can unduly influence the people of the country?

PRESIDENT: The Member is making unsupported statements.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I want to know whether he is not in an influential position.

PRESIDENT: That was not how the question was put.

Auction of the right of collection of Lime-shells.

286. **MR. C. P. TARAKAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they propose to auction the right of collection of lime-shells next year onwards;

(ii) the amount that has accrued to the Government on account of auctioning this right in the current year; and

(iii) whether they are aware that there is a strong dissatisfaction among the people regarding the auction of this right for collecting lime-shells?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (i) Yes.

(ii) Rs. 8,855.

(iii) Some people have objected to the sale of the right of collecting lime-shells.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): മൂന്നാം ഉപഭാഗത്തിന്റെ മറുപടിയിൽ, ഏതാനും ആളുകൾ കക്കാ ലേലത്തിനെപ്പറ്റി പരാതിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു. അതാരാണ്?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): അയ്മനത്തിനു സമീപമുള്ള ആളുകളാണെന്നാണ് ഓർമ്മ.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർമ്മെൻറു അന്വേഷണം നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഡയറക്ടർക്കുടി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള എക്കണോമിക്ക് ഡവലപ്പുമെൻറു ബോർഡിൽനിന്നു കക്കാ ലേലം നിർത്തണം എന്ന് ഐകകണ്ഠമായി ശിപാർശ്ശചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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